for making available Defence helicopter as and when requisitioned by the Director-General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad at a very Short Notice;

(b) if so, action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence helicopter can be provided to State Government, including Andhra Pradesh, for various relief and rescue operations after taking into consideration the requirements of Defence Services.

Lowering of standard of heights for recruitment of Jawans

31. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the relatively lower physical height of people of Orissa in comparison to most other States in India including Bihar and U.P.; and

(b) if so, will the Government consider the lowering of the standard of heights for recruitment of Jawans in the Armed Forces an equating the people of Orissa with those from Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh instead of equating them with Bihar and U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Anthropological Survey of India has determined the mean height of men in Orissa at 162.87 cms (5.34 ft). The mean height has been determined at 162.11 cms (5.32 ft). and 165.18 cms (5.42 ft) for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively. There is, therefore, no significant height variation in the mean height of men in these States.

(b) Based on the genetic pool of all regions, the country is divided into six regions and different physical are prescribed for recruitment in the Army for each region. Within a region the prevailing lowest physical standards of that region are being adopted. Orissa is included in the Eastern region and is clubbed with Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh belong to the Central

and Southern regions respectively. Therefore, it is not appropriate to club the candidates from Orissa with those from Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh for the purpose of recruitment into the Army.

No relaxation in the minimum physical standards of height is available for recruitment in the Air Force and the Navy from Orissa.

MiG Crashed

32. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether another MiG crashed on October 26, 2005 near Bangalore, if so, the cause of the crash;

(b) the number and types of MiGs left with the Indian Air Force; and

(c) whether any common defect or deficiency has been identified in the MiG fleet and the steps taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

(b) Details can not be divulged due to security reasons.

(c) No, Sir. However, measures are being continuously undertaken to upgrade/improve the Indian Air Force fleet, including the MiG version, to keep pace with the latest developments.

Crash of UAVs

†33. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned aircraft that crashed during the last two years till date;

(b) whether a number of persons have been killed or injured in such crashes and the financial loss suffered by Government as a result thereof;

(c) whether inquiry has been conducted in each such crash;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.